



**Testimony
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Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST)
Before the
Planning & Development Committee
March 5, 2010**

SB-305 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION OF STONE WALLS

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) supports SB-305, which authorizes towns to adopt ordinances to protect stone walls.

Throughout New England, stone walls stretch across the land, adding to the scenic beauty of our small towns. It has also been said that the history of New England is written in stone because stone walls provide us with a link to our heritage, some dating as far back as the mid-1600's. Many of Connecticut's stone walls were built during the nineteenth century by farmers and other landowners as boundary lines or animal pounds or fencing. In fact, when a stone wall was finished it needed to be inspected by a fence viewer. A fence viewer was a municipal worker that would inspect fences to make sure that they were structurally sound. Given that many still exist today, they clearly passed inspection.

We therefore urge adoption of SB-305 to help preserve Connecticut's historic and beautiful stone walls which are so much a part of the character of our small towns.

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